

**Social Service Human Relations Board**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting, Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL: Acting President Wasko called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. Present were members Franz, Chen, Nielsen, Soglin, and Villareal. Staff members were Jones and Brown.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes from the regular meeting on July 26, 2007 were approved with changes M/S (Franz, Villareal) and unanimous. The minutes from the special meeting on August 9, 2007 were approved M/S (Franz, Chen) and unanimous.

**3-C. RECOMMENDATION TO CO-SPONSOR LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS IMMIGRATION FORUM**: Taken Out of order

Ms. Kate Quick, President, from the League of Women Voters (LWV) reported to the Board. The LWV, a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The LWV is a grassroots organization, working at the national, state and local levels.

Quick explained that the LWV is concerned about the complex nature of immigration issues and the amount of misinformation in the media. They are planning an event that will invite expert speakers to a public meeting to explore more issues related to immigration and to inform public. The LWV is requesting co-sponsorship of this event.

Dr. Tony Iton from the Alameda County Department of Public Health will share health data. Other invitees for the panel are Alameda Unified School District Superintendent Ms. Ardella Dailey, Reverend Michael Yoshi, and an immigration attorney. Member Franz was also invited to speak.

The event is being designed an informational panel, not a debate. There will be no point of view, and no advocating on the issue. The panel will focus on factual discussions for 10-15 minutes and then receive questions from the public. The LWV will manage the publicity for the forum.

Franz – What is the date, and what would be done with the information gathered?

Quick - The date will depend on Dr. Iton's availability, 11<sup>th</sup> or 18 of October. The local chapter of the LWV in Alameda is currently studying issues of immigration. They have established a Committee for Immigration Study at the local level. Information will be shared with the National League of Women Voters to support their national study of immigration issues.

Wasko – Immigration is a broad topic, are you looking at the role of illegal immigration, rather than the process of immigration more generally? Who is the target audience for this? Wasko explained that some legal immigrants may have questions around the legal processes (i.e. visas, family members, etc.)

Quick explained that anyone who has interest or concerns with immigration issues will be the audience. Legal and illegal immigration will be topics of discussion.

Chen – This discussion is long overdue. There are many misconceptions on this issue and this Board has sponsored and co-sponsored many community events on other topics, but not on immigration. Chen explained that he was concerned about ensuring an unbiased discussion. He asked How did you choose the speakers for this forum?

Quick explained that the panel was selected for their expertise. Ms. Dailey of the school district has data about immigration's impact on schools. Dr. Iton was chosen for his study of health care and the burden of costs for services. An attorney was identified for her expertise with immigration processes. Rev. Yoshi for his work with the diversity and connections to the faith community. The LWV thought of Mr. Franz for his community help with the Red Cross. The LWV is open to hearing other suggestions.

Franz – Said he was honored, but didn't feel he was the right person for the panel. He mentioned Wasko might be a better choice due to her working daily with immigrants.

Soglin – The issue of economics is complex regarding immigrations, perhaps an academic should be on the panel.

Franz – Sponsorship also means ownership, and if we sponsor now this may be seen as bias. The LWV will not control what the panel says.

Wasko – The actual number of immigrants is difficult to identify and it can be hard to get facts. Wasko suggested Ed Hernandez at UC Berkeley, might be a good choice. How about one of Don Perata's staff?

Quick - The LWV does not want anyone in politics, because then you get into a point of view.

Henry – Is part of the intent for this to lead to further panels and forums, audience driven?

Quick- Yes, that is the intention.

Wasko – Is the focus on Alameda, and would this open doors to further exchange?

Quick - Yes, and that is what we hope, there is a value to listening.

Franz – Are we able to send this action item to ATAH for the workgroup to follow up once the panel is chosen.

Staff – Yes, you may refer to ATAH with direction.

Nielsen – I applaud the guts to pursue this issue even though it might be tricky, and agree to support it and see the possibility for future topics to falls within the AAWG.

Chen – This topic is very close to my heart and although I want to support now, I am concerned about ensuring a balanced discussion.

Ms. Quick - The LWV would expect for instance, Dr. Iton would say, here is what we are seeing in the county, here is what we are not seeing in the county in a very factual way. The purpose of this Panel is that there is a lot of mis- and dis-information out there sometimes that comes from both sides of the issue. In response, to the tough questions, the LWV is reading some proposals in legislation currently and addressing the question of, how does this affect us in the here and now? What is happening in my neighborhood?

Franz – Motion to authorize ATAH, after hearing the final list of panelists, to evaluate the balance of participants to ensure a lack of bias, and then to determine whether or not to co-sponsor the forum. M/S (Chen, Villareal) and unanimous.

Ms. Quick further mentioned that the LWV would like to get information out to the voters by a deadline of September 5, 2007.

**3-A. RECOMMENDATION TO CO-SPONSOR ALAMEDA SERVICES COLLABORATIVE (ASC):** Member Franz reported there will be five ASC luncheons for fiscal year 2007-08, September, November, January, March and May 2008. He requested the Board continue to co-sponsor the ASC luncheons. Ideas for agenda items should be forwarded to him for future meetings. Approved M/S (Wasko, Soglin) and unanimous.

**3-B. RECOMMENDATION TO CO-SPONSOR ALAMEDA HOSPITAL FAIR:** Acting President Wasko will be at the fair on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup> and would like the Board to share table space with her agency. Wasko reported that the hospital fair is always well attended and that this is a good opportunity for outreach. She is volunteering and Approved M/S (Franz, Nielsen) and unanimous.

**3-D. JOINT SESSION WITH ALAMEDA COLLABORATIVE FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES (ACCYF):** Acting President Wasko reported the work session with the ACCYF will be on the Board's regular meeting date of September 27<sup>th</sup>. The Board needs to determine agenda. Wasko reminded the Board that the In-the-Mix forum was the first event as a collaborative effort for these two groups.

Wasko also reminded the Board that a presentation from Dr. Iton's "health is not just healthcare" program will be part of this meeting and that Alice Lai-Bitker will also attend. She reminded the group that Cathy has been attending the Health is Not Just Healthcare meetings.

Chen – It is a good idea to establish a report and to better understand what the ACCYF does.

Nielsen – Dr. Iton presentation includes mortality rates and studies related to indicators that can improve test scores and healthcare. She further reported the words "healthy community," are very broad and impact education and planning as well as social services.

She explained that the collaboration with ACCYF will broaden the audience that Dr. Iton has already presented to. She recommended to further invite members from the Board of Education, Alameda Education Foundation, Title One school principles, Head Start, APC, College of Alameda's (COA) social justice program, new dental college at (COA), and high school health center representatives.

Soglin – Will this be Lai-Bitker's presentation, then Dr. Iton's presentation and then dialogue?

Staff Jones – The Board should discuss how it would like to follow Dr. Iton's presentation.

Further discussion regarding the agenda included how the meeting should begin, who should be invited and the possibility of this leading to further collaboration similar to the In-the-Mix forum.

Motion to authorize the AAWG to collaborate with ACCYF to finalize agenda. M/S (Franz, Soglin) and unanimous.

3-E. DISCUSSION OF TRIP TO WUXI: Member Chen provided an update on the scheduled trip to Friendship City, Wuxi. The City Council has formally accepted Wuxi's invitation. The itinerary is complete and the list of attendees will be finalized by August 27. Acting President Wasko, members Franz, and Chen will all be traveling for the trip. Member Franz would like the Board to approve costs for equipment and instruments he will use during an official performance. M/S (Franz, Villareal) to approve funds as appropriate to cover costs of musical presentation for the Wuxi, China trip. And unanimous.

3-F. WORKGROUP STATUS REPORTS:

*Alamedans Together Against Hate* – Chair Villareal reported the group had a meeting today with Chief Tibbet from the Police Department. Chief Tibbet provided them an overview on crime statistics. Villareal was pleased with the Chief's willingness to join an upcoming forum with the College of Alameda. ATAH's next planning meeting with COA is in the upcoming weeks.

*Assessment and Awareness Workgroup* – Chair Nielsen reported she is working with the County Public Health Department to meet unmet dental needs. 2,200 Alamedans receive MediCal, but only three dentists in Alameda are accepting that insurance. The County Public Health Department estimates that an additional 6,000 Alamedans are uninsured. The County Department of Public Health is working to secure funding to hire a person as a case coordinator for the City of Alameda. Nielsen further mentioned that the County Dental Administrator is focused on preventative services for youth and that access to dental services is also a challenge for families.

*Family Services Workgroup* - Acting President Wasko reported there is community energy around domestic violence as a family issue. Anecdotally, she has heard that there is an increase in family violence, elder abuse and teen against parent abuse issues. She explained that the city had a Domestic Violence Task Force (DVTF) but is currently non-active. She envisions engaging this workgroup in issues related to domestic violence.

*Sister City Workgroup* – Member Chen reported that after the China trip this workgroup will work to transition the Sister City workgroup to a non-profit (501c) agency by January 2008. The China trip is moving forward and a final list of attendees is forthcoming.

4. BOARD / STAFF COMMUNICATIONS: Staff mentioned Reginald James was interviewed by the Board and recommended to the Mayor for appointment. Member Chen said the Proclamation for the Peoples Republic of China flag raising is drafted and scheduled for mid-September.

5. ADJOURNMENT: Acting President Wasko adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Jones, Secretary  
Social Service Human Relations Board

MJ:sb